
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN
CONSULTATION WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO
DEVELOP PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO PROTECT AND RESTORE ILIAHI,
HAWAII'S ENDEMIC SANDALWOOD.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's native sandalwood tree, iliahi, is rare
2 and precious; and

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4 WHEREAS, iliahi, once prolific throughout the Hawaiian
5 archipelago, is now popularly believed to be nearly extinct due
6 to its exploitation for international sale because of its sweet
7 smelling heartwood; and

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9 WHEREAS, iliahi, the most historic tree of Hawaii, caused
10 the sandalwood era from 1789 to 1830, which transformed Hawaii
11 from a thriving self-sufficient economy to a commercial economy
12 based on the international trade of sandalwood; and

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14 WHEREAS, the sandalwood trade was the stimulus for the
15 creation of the Hawaiian flag and Hawaii's first written law,
16 which was a tax on sandalwood and is believed to be the first
17 tax on any wood in the United States of America; and

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19 WHEREAS, trade in iliahi was the first use of credit by
20 Hawaiian chiefs, as it was used to secure payment to buy guns,
21 ships, and western finery; and

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23 WHEREAS, iliahi is perhaps the oldest tree species in the
24 Hawaiian archipelago, with sandcastings and reports in 1789 of
25 its cutting on Laysan island, which is twenty-two million years
26 old; and
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1 WHEREAS, evolution over millions of years has caused at
2 least six species of sandalwood to evolve throughout the islands
3 of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and Hawaii; and
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5 WHEREAS, iliahi is an ecological keystone of the health of
6 the Hawaiian community as it is a companion plant that thrives
7 symbiotically and is hemiparasitic with other native Hawaiian
8 plants; and
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10 WHEREAS, there is no regulation or oversight on the
11 harvest, sale, or destruction of sandalwood on privately owned
12 or managed land and the Department of Land and Natural Resources
13 believes that additional protection is needed through regulatory
14 controls; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Legislature introduced six sandalwood
17 protection bills in three separate legislative sessions, but
18 each bill failed to gain legislative approval; and
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20 WHEREAS, although the Department of Land and Natural
21 Resources was requested by Concurrent Resolution to study
22 sandalwood protection legislation and to report its findings to
23 the Legislature in 2013 and 2014, the Department of Land and
24 Natural Resources has not fulfilled the requests; and
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26 WHEREAS, Honolulu will host the World Conservation Congress
27 in 2016, when the world will spotlight Hawaii's efforts in
28 conservation, including conservation of Hawaii's native
29 sandalwood; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
32 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
33 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Board of Land
34 and Natural Resources, in consultation with the Legislative
35 Reference Bureau, is requested to develop proposed legislation
36 to protect and restore iliahi, Hawaii's endemic sandalwood; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Land and Natural
39 Resources is requested to consider prior proposed legislation,
40 testimony, and reports in developing its proposed legislation;
41 and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Land and Natural
2 Resources is requested to submit a report of its findings and
3 recommendations, including proposed legislation, no later than
4 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
5 2016; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Land and Natural
8 Resources is requested to include in its report an explanation
9 on why the Department has not responded to requests to study
10 sandalwood protection contained in House Concurrent Resolution
11 No. 147 (2014) and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 93 (2013);
12 and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
16 United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Chair of the Board of
17 Land and Natural Resources, Administrator of the Division of
18 Forestry and Wildlife of the Department of Land and Natural
19 Resources, Chair of the Board of Agriculture, and Acting
20 Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.
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OFFERED BY: 

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